

March 2004

WEST NILE VIRUS TESTING

Arizona State Health Laboratory

The Arizona State Health Laboratory (ASHL) conducts serologic testing for West Nile virus (WNV) and other mosquito-borne viruses such as St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) and western equine encephalitis (WEE) viruses. **Please Note: WNV testing at the ASHL is being offered for hospitalized patients with central nervous system (CNS) disease such as encephalitis and/or meningitis.** For outpatient cases, hospital laboratories should submit specimens to commercial labs.

Please contact disease control staff at your local health department prior to submitting specimens to the ASHL for WNV testing.

The following information must accompany WNV specimens:

Patient Name	Submitter's Name & Number
Date of Birth	Specimen Collection Date
Clinical Presentation (ex. encephalitis)	Onset Date

Testing may be delayed for any specimens submitted without appropriate information. Specimens (5 cc serum or 10 cc whole blood in a red top tube) can be shipped overnight on cold packs to:

**ARIZONA STATE HEALTH LABORATORY
ATTN: SEROLOGY
250 N. 17th Avenue
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007**

Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) can also be submitted.
For more information, contact your local health department.

PLEASE POST THIS FOR LABORATORY STAFF!